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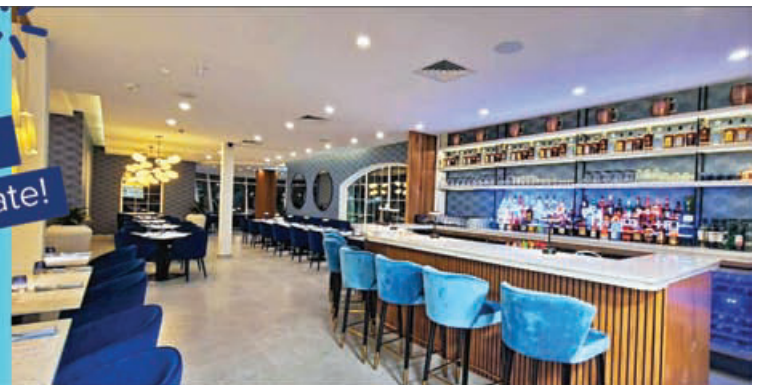
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Tank containing oil drilling byproducts explodes and catches fire near GM facility in Michigan

Associated Press

BRIGHTON Mich. (AP) — A tank containing byproducts from oil drilling operations exploded and caught fire Tuesday near the General Motors Proving Ground in southeastern Michigan, damaging two nearby homes but causing no injuries, a fire chief said.

Fire crews were dispatched to the site about 6:40 a.m. after the tank exploded, rocking the area and damaging two homes about 500 to 600 feet (150 to 180 meters) away, leaving them with shattered windows, said Brighton Area Fire Authority Chief Michael O'Brian.

He said no injuries were reported following the explosion at the site adjacent



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire after a tank containing byproducts from oil drilling operations exploded near the General Motors Proving Ground, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024 in Milford, Mich.

(WXYZ via AP)

to the GM Proving Ground about 45 miles (70 kilometers) northwest of Detroit.

No one was working at the site at the time of the explosion, O'Brian said.

Video footage shows flames soaring above the site, where oil drilling equip-

ment was in operation. Local television stations reported that residents felt the explosion miles away. GM said in a statement that "Thankfully, no one was injured, and no facilities were damaged."

O'Brian said the site where the explosion and fire occurred is leased by a third party, and that the cause of the explosion remains under investigation.

O'Brian said he understands the tanks contain natural gas byproducts of oil drilling and hold a mixture of water, a combustible liquid and brine. He said fire crews extinguished the burning tank using flame-suppressing foam, then sprayed nearby tanks with water to keep them cool. □

Biden proposes Medicare and Medicaid cover costly weight-loss drugs for millions of obese Americans



President Joe Biden speaks as first lady Jill Biden looks on at a Friendsgiving event with service members and their families in the Staten Island borough of New York, Monday, Nov. 25 2024.
(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

By Amanda Seitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Americans with obesity would be eligible to have popular weight-loss drugs like Wegovy or Zepbound covered by Medicare or Medicaid under a new rule the Biden administration proposed Tuesday morning.

The costly proposal from

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services immediately sets the stage for a showdown between the powerful pharmaceutical industry and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an outspoken opponent of the weight-loss drugs who, as President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to lead the agency, could block the measure.

While the rule would give millions of people access to weekly injectables that have helped people shed pounds so quickly that some have labeled them miracle drugs, it would cost taxpayers as much as \$35 billion over the next decade.

"It's a good day for anyone who suffers from obesity," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press in an interview. "It's a game changer for Americans who can't afford these drugs otherwise."

The rule would not be finalized until January, days after Trump takes office. A bipartisan coalition of congressional members has lobbied for the drugs to be covered by Medicare, saying it could save the government from spending

billions of dollars on treating chronic ailments that stem from obesity. While it's unclear where Trump himself stands on coverage of the weight-loss drugs, his allies and Cabinet picks who have vowed to cut government spending could balk at the upfront price tag.

Under the proposal, only those who are considered obese — someone who has a body mass index of 30 or higher — would qualify for coverage. Some people may already get coverage of the drugs through Medicare or Medicaid, if they have diabetes or are at risk for stroke or heart disease. Becerra estimated that an additional 3.5 million people on Medicare and 4 million on Medicaid could qualify for coverage of the drugs. But research suggests far more people

might qualify, with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimating roughly 28 million people on Medicaid are considered obese.

Medicare has been barred from offering the drugs under a decades-old law that prohibits the government-backed insurance program from covering weight-loss products. The rule proposed by the Biden administration, however, would recognize obesity as a disease that can be treated with the help of the drugs.

The anti-obesity drug market has expanded significantly in recent years, with the Food and Drug Administration approving a new class of weekly injectables like Novo Nordisk's Wegovy and Eli Lilly's Zepbound to treat obesity. □

North Carolina's governor has vetoed a GOP bill that would weaken his successor and other Democrats

By Makiya Seminera and Gary D. Robertson
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Outgoing North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed legislation on Tuesday that would strip powers from several Democrats elected to statewide office this month, including removing the authority of Cooper's successor to appoint the state elections board.

These and other provisions, contained in a wide-ranging measure stuffed through the Republican-dominated General Assembly in less than 24 hours during a lame-duck session last week, would weaken Gov.-elect Josh Stein, as well as the next attorney general, schools superintendent and lieutenant governor offices that are slated to be run by Democrats next year.

While the bill contains additional Hurricane Helene relief provisions, critics say the amount is relatively small and most of the relief funds can't even be spent until the General Assembly reconvenes next month. And billions of dollars more in aid may be needed in the coming months.

Democrats and their allies considered disaster items thin window-dressing for a series of partisan power grabs by the GOP before its veto-proof majority potentially goes away at year's end following the certification of the Nov. 5 General Assembly elections, where a few tight races are undergoing recounts.

In his veto statement, Cooper called the bill a "sham" that doesn't provide the necessary aid to western North Carolina and "merely shuffles money from one fund to another in Raleigh" instead.

"This legislation was titled disaster relief but instead violates the constitution by taking appointments away from the next Governor for the Board of Elections, Utilities Commission and Commander of the NC Highway Patrol, letting political



North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper speaks at a campaign event for Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024.
(AP Photo/Nell Redmond, File)

parties choose appellate judges and interfering with the Attorney General's ability to advocate for lower electric bills for consumers," Cooper said.

The bill now returns to the General Assembly, where Republicans are expected to start their override attempt in Raleigh next week.

They usually need all GOP House members and senators present and unified to be successful.

But that could be challenging, as three House Republicans voted no on the bill this month. All three represent areas damaged by Helene's historic flooding. One of them said he voted against the measure because it was rushed through the General Assembly.

While Republicans will still control both chambers come January, Stein could become more successful blocking GOP legislation if Democratic lawmakers remain united to uphold vetoes.

The 131-page bill would attempt to alter yet again how the State Board of Elections is appointed, likely leading to a GOP majority on a panel now controlled by Democrats.

The governor currently makes state board appointments, and the gov-

ernor's party always holds three of the five seats.

Under the latest bill, starting in May, the state auditor who will be Republican Dave Boliek will make appointments elected. The changes likely would mean Republican board control in the near future and filter down to county election boards, too.

Other measures approved by the GOP-controlled legislature since 2016 to change the board's makeup in the interest of bipartisanship have been blocked by courts, including a 2023 law that would move board appointment authority from the governor to the General Assembly. □

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Trump's latest tariff plan aims at multiple countries. What does it mean for the US?

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has identified what he sees as an all-purpose fix for what ails America: Slap huge new tariffs on foreign goods entering the United States.

On Monday, Trump sent shockwaves across the nation's northern and southern borders, vowing sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada, as well as China, as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs.

In a pair of posts on his Truth Social site Trump railed against an influx of illegal migrants, even though southern border apprehensions have been hovering near four-year lows.

He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the country from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China, as one of his first executive orders. He said the new tariffs would remain in place "until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

The president-elect asserts that tariffs basically import taxes will create more factory jobs, shrink the federal deficit, lower food prices and allow the government to subsidize childcare.

Economists are generally skeptical, considering tariffs to be a mostly inefficient way for governments to raise money. They are especially alarmed by Trump's latest proposed tariffs.

Carl B. Weinberg and Rubeeela Farooqi, economists with High Frequency Economics said Tuesday that energy, automobiles and food supplies will be particularly hit hard.

"Imposing tariffs on trade flows into the United States without first preparing alternative sources for the goods and services affected will raise the price of imported items at once," Weinberg and Farooqi wrote. "Since many of these goods are



People buy groceries at a Walmart Superstore in Secaucus, New Jersey, July 11, 2024.
(AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez, File)

consumer goods, households will be made poorer." High Frequency Economics believes the threats are not meant to support new trade policy and are instead a tool to elicit some changes along the borders and for imports from Canada, Mexico and China.

Though Vice President Kamala Harris criticized Trump's tariff threats as unserious during her failed bid for the presidency, the Biden-Harris administration retained the taxes the Trump administration imposed on \$360 billion in Chinese goods. And it imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles.

Indeed, the United States in recent years has gradually retreated from its post-World War II role of promoting global free trade and lower tariffs. That shift has been a response to the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs, widely attributed to unfettered trade and an increasingly aggressive China.

Tariffs are a tax on imports. They are typically charged as a percentage of the price a buyer pays a foreign seller. In the United States, tariffs are collected by Customs and Border Protection agents at 328 ports of entry across the country. The tariff rates range from passenger cars (2.5%) to golf shoes (6%). Tariffs can

be lower for countries with which the United States has trade agreements. For example, most goods can move among the United States, Mexico and Canada tariff-free because of Trump's US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

There's much misinformation about who actually pays tariffs.

Trump insists that tariffs are paid for by foreign countries. In fact, it is importers American companies that pay tariffs, and the money goes to U.S. Treasury. Those companies, in turn, typically pass their higher costs on to their customers in the form of higher prices. That's why economists say consumers usually end up footing the bill for tariffs.

Still, tariffs can hurt foreign countries by making their products pricier and harder to sell abroad. Yang Zhou, an economist at Shanghai's Fudan University, concluded in a study that Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods inflicted more than three times as much damage to the Chinese economy as they did to the U.S. economy.

Tariffs are intended mainly to protect domestic industries. By raising the price of imports, tariffs can protect home-grown manufacturers. They may also serve to punish foreign countries

for committing unfair trade practices, like subsidizing their exporters or dumping products at unfairly low prices. Before the federal income tax was established in 1913, tariffs were a major revenue driver for the government. From 1790 to 1860, tariffs accounted for 90% of federal revenue, according to Douglas Irwin, a Dartmouth College economist who has studied the history of trade policy. Tariffs fell out of favor as global trade grew after World War II. The government needed vastly bigger revenue streams to finance its operations.

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the government is expected to collect \$81.4 billion in tariffs and fees. That's a trifle next to the \$2.5 trillion that's expected to come from individual income taxes and the \$1.7 trillion from Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Still, Trump wants to enact a budget policy that resembles what was in place in the 19th century.

He has argued that tariffs on farm imports could lower food prices by aiding America's farmers. In fact, tariffs on imported food products would almost certainly send grocery prices up by reducing choices for consumers and competition for American produc-

ers.

Tariffs can also be used to pressure other countries on issues that may or may not be related to trade. In 2019, for example, Trump used the threat of tariffs as leverage to persuade Mexico to crack down on waves of Central American migrants crossing Mexican territory on their way to the United States.

Trump even sees tariffs as a way to prevent wars.

"I can do it with a phone call," he said at an August rally in North Carolina. If another country tries to start a war, he said he'd issue a threat:

"We're going to charge you 100% tariffs. And all of a sudden, the president or prime minister or dictator or whoever the hell is running the country says to me, 'Sir, we won't go to war.'"

Economists generally consider tariffs self-defeating. Tariffs raise costs for companies and consumers that rely on imports. They're also likely to provoke retaliation. The European Union, for example, punched back against Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum by taxing U.S. products, from bourbon to Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Likewise, China responded to Trump's trade war by slapping tariffs on American goods, including soybeans and pork in a calculated drive to hurt his supporters in farm country.

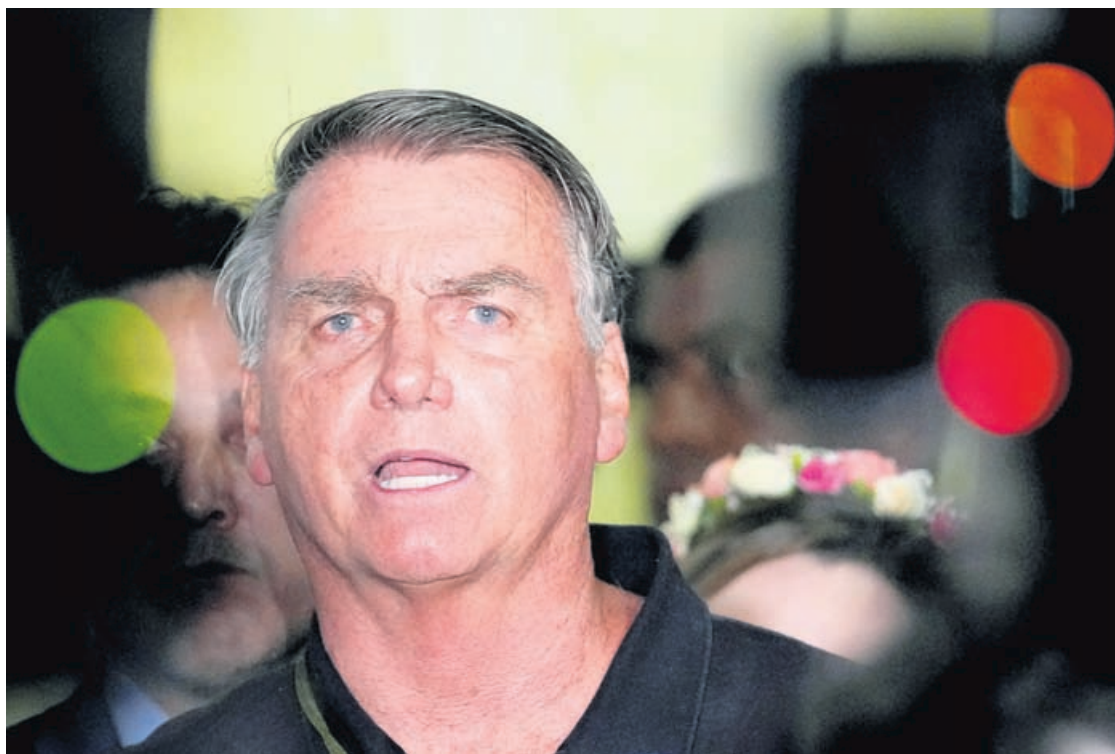
A study by economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Zurich, Harvard and the World Bank concluded that Trump's tariffs failed to restore jobs to the American heartland. The tariffs "neither raised nor lowered U.S. employment" where they were supposed to protect jobs, the study found. Despite Trump's 2018 taxes on imported steel, for example, the number of jobs at U.S. steel plants barely budged: They remained right around 140,000. By comparison, Walmart alone employs 1.6 million people in the United States. □

Dozens of recordings reveal high-ranking Brazilian officers pressured Bolsonaro to stage a coup

By Mauricio Savarese
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A trove of leaked audio recordings from late 2022 reveal high-ranking members of Brazil's army discussing efforts to pressure then-President Jair Bolsonaro to carry out a coup and remain in power. The 53 recordings, obtained by the Federal Police and accessed by The Associated Press on Monday, provide a rare chance to hear military members expressing in their own voices their desire to keep leftist Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from taking office.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who oversees the police's sprawling investigation, quoted some of those recordings in his ruling last week ordering the arrest of five people for plotting the assassination of then-President-elect Lula in 2022 and then attempting to oust him from power on Jan. 8, 2023, when Bolsonaro supporters destroyed government buildings in capital



Former President Jair Bolsonaro speaks to the press after being formally charged by the federal police with attempted coup, at the airport in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Nov. 25, 2024.
(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

Brasilia. Recordings from one former army officer who was not among those de Moraes ordered arrested last week are particularly supportive of a coup, and weren't referenced in de Moraes' order.

Col. Roberto Raimundo Criscuoli, a former subcommander of the army's special forces, told retired Brig. Gen. Mario Fernandes, who was then second in command at the general secretary of the presidency, that

the far-right leader had a clear choice after Lula won his third, non-consecutive term.

"It will be either a civil war now or civil war later. We have a justification now for civil war; people are on the

streets, we have massive support," Criscuoli said in one of the audios. "Let's do this now. Speak to 01."

01 is a common reference to Brazil's president.

Neither the former president nor his ministers are heard speaking. The recordings are not directly related to the Nov. 21 formal accusation by Brazil's police that Bolsonaro and 36 others attempted to stage a coup.

The Brazilian army did not respond to a request for comment about the Federal Police investigation.

Bolsonaro frequently cast doubt on the election results without providing any evidence and never conceded. He left for the United States days before Lula's inauguration on Jan. 1, 2023 and stayed there for months, keeping a low profile. The top electoral court has ruled Bolsonaro ineligible to run for president until 2030 for abuse of power, and he is also the target of several investigations for a slew of potential crimes. □

Interpol clamps down on cybercrime and arrests over 1,000 suspects in Africa

By Mark Banchereau
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Interpol arrested 1,006 suspects in Africa during a massive two-month operation, clamping down on cybercrime that left tens of thousands of victims, including some who were trafficked, and produced millions in financial damages, the global police organization said Tuesday. Operation Serengeti, a joint operation with Afrapol, the African Union's police agency, ran from Sept. 2 to Oct. 31 in 19 African countries and targeted criminals behind ransomware, business email compromise, digital extortion and online scams, the agency said in a statement.

"From multi-level marketing scams to credit card fraud on an industrial scale, the increasing volume and

sophistication of cybercrime attacks is of serious concern," said Valdecy Urquiza, the Secretary General of Interpol.

Interpol pinpointed 35,000 victims, with cases linked to nearly \$193 million in financial losses worldwide, stating that local police authorities and private sector partners, including internet service providers, played a key role in the operation. Jalel Chelba, Afrapol's Executive Director, said in the statement: "Through Serengeti, Afrapol has significantly enhanced support for law enforcement in African Union Member States." Serengeti's results were a "drastic increase" compared to operations in Africa in previous years, Enrique Hernandez Gonzalez, Interpol's Assistant Director of Cybercrime Operations, told The Associated Press.

Interpol's previous cybercrime operations in Africa had only led to 25 arrests in the last two years.

"Significant progress has been made, with participating countries enhancing their ability to work with intelligence and produce meaningful results," Gonzalez said. In Kenya, the police made nearly two dozen arrests in an online credit card fraud case linked to losses of \$8.6 million. In the West African country of Senegal, officers arrested eight people, including five Chinese nationals, for a \$6 million online Ponzi scheme. Chelba said Afrapol's focus now includes emerging threats like Artificial Intelligence-driven malware and advanced cyberattack techniques.

Other dismantled networks included a group in Cameroon suspected of using a

multi-level marketing scam for human trafficking, an international criminal group in Angola running an illegal virtual casino and a cryptocurrency investment scam in Nigeria, the agency said. Interpol, which has 196 member countries and cel-

ebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterrorism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organized crime. □



People walk on the Interpol logo at the international police agency headquarters in Lyon, France, on Nov. 8, 2018.
(AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani, File)

Mexico suggests it would impose its own tariffs to retaliate against any Trump tariffs

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Claudia Sheinbaum suggested Tuesday that Mexico could retaliate with tariffs of its own, after U.S. President-elect Donald Trump threatened to impose 25% import duties on Mexican goods if the country doesn't stop the flow of drugs and migrants across the border.

Sheinbaum said she was willing to engage in talks on the issues, but said drugs were a U.S. problem.

"One tariff would be followed by another in response, and so on until we put at risk common businesses," Sheinbaum said, referring to U.S. automakers that have plants on both sides of the border.

She said Tuesday that Mexico had done a lot to stem the flow of migrants, noting "caravans of migrants no longer reach the border." However, Mexico's efforts to fight drugs like the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl which is manufactured by Mexican cartels using chemicals imported from China have weakened in the last year.

Sheinbaum said Mexico suffered from an influx of weapons smuggled in from



Newly-sworn in President Claudia Sheinbaum addresses supporters in the Zócalo, Mexico City's main square, on Oct. 1, 2024.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano, File)

the United States, and said the flow of drugs "is a problem of public health and consumption in your country's society."

Sheinbaum also criticized U.S. spending on weapons, saying the money should instead be spent regionally to address the problem of migration. "If a percentage of what the United States spends on war were dedicated to peace and development, that would address the underlying causes

of migration," she said.

Sheinbaum's bristly response suggests that Trump faces a much different Mexican president than he did in his first term.

Back in late 2018, former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was a charismatic, old-school politician who developed a chummy relationship with Trump. The two were eventually able to strike a bargain in which Mexico helped keep migrants

away from the border and received other countries' deported migrants and Trump backed down on the threats.

But Sheinbaum, who took office Oct. 1, is a stern leftist ideologue trained in radical student protest movements, and appears less willing to pacify or mollify Trump.

"We negotiate as equals, there is no subordination here, because we are a great nation," Sheinbaum

said, while adding, "I think we are going to reach an agreement."

But Gabriela Siller, director of economic analysis of the financial group Banco Base, fears the personality clash could escalate things into brinkmanship; Trump clearly hates to lose.

"Trump may have just tossed the threat out there, as he does," Siller said. "But Mexico's response, that we're going to respond to you with tariffs, that will make Trump really impose them."

It's not clear how serious Trump's threat is. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement forbids just imposing tariffs on other member countries. And it's not clear whether the economy could even tolerate sudden levies on imports: Auto plants on both sides of the border rely on each other for parts and components, and some production lines could screech to a halt. "It is unacceptable and would cause inflation and job losses in Mexico and the United States," Sheinbaum said, while offering to talk about the issues. "If tariffs go up, who will it hurt? General Motors," she said. □

UN investigates sexual exploitation allegations against aid workers in Chad following AP story

By Sam Mednick

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) —

The United Nations in Chad has launched an internal investigation, following an



A woman who fled war in Sudan and requested anonymity because she feared retribution after reporting sexual exploitation, holds her injured arm in a refugee camp in Adre, Chad, Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024

(AP Photo/Sam Mednick)

Associated Press report on allegations of sexual exploitation of Sudanese refugees, which included aid workers.

The statement, written days after the AP published the story last week, was seen on Tuesday. It said the seriousness of the allegations cited in the AP's story, warranted immediate and firm measures and that those responsible should be punished.

"Refugees are already vulnerable and traumatized by the events that led them to flee their country and under no circumstances should they be the victims of abuse by those who are supposed to help them,"

said Francois Batalingaya, the U.N. resident and humanitarian coordinator in Chad.

The U.N. did not immediately respond to questions about what the internal investigation entailed.

Earlier this month, the AP reported accusations by some Sudanese women and girls that men, including those meant to protect them such as humanitarian workers and local security forces, had instead sexually exploited them in Chad's sites for displaced people. They said the men offered money, easier access to assistance, and jobs. Such sexual exploitation in Chad is a crime.

Hundreds of thousands of people, most of them women, have streamed into Chad to escape Sudan's civil war, which has killed over 20,000 people.

Sexual exploitation during large humanitarian crises is not uncommon, especially in displacement sites. Aid groups have long struggled to combat the issue, citing a lack of reporting by women, not enough funds to respond and a focus on first providing basic necessities. Experts say exploitation represents a deep failure by the aid community and that people seeking protection should never have to make choices driven by survival. □

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Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.



Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach. This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island. Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri



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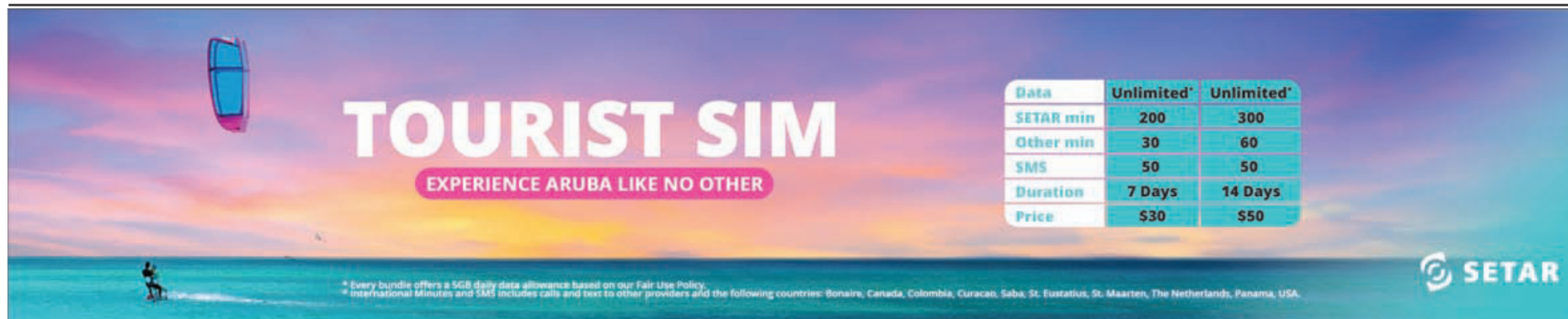
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Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras

of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared

tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower. The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more

tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into

the Historic Museum it currently is. Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



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- 1. Thanksgiving Special – Thursday, November 28:** We're giving thanks, Po-Ké Ono style, with a special day at our Marketplace location. Savor your favorite meals while enjoying the Dollar to Florin benefit. (Valid only on food, excludes drinks and takeouts.)
- 2. Black Friday – Friday, November 29:** Make your Black Friday extra delicious. Visit us at Marketplace and enjoy Dollar to Florin on all food from our menu.
- 3. Cyber Monday – Monday, December 2:** Exclusive for takeouts via WhatsApp, this promotion is available at both locations, Marketplace and Azure. Place your order and enjoy Dollar to Florin from the comfort of your home.

These unique deals are the perfect way to savor the best of Po-Ké Ono at unbeatable prices. Don't miss this opportunity to indulge in our fresh poke bowls, baos, sushi, and more in a relaxed, tropical setting.

Locations:

- 📍 **Po-Ké Ono Azure** – J.E. Irausquin Blvd 260
(Cyber Monday, December 2)
- 📍 **Po-Ké Ono Marketplace** – L.G. Smith Blvd 9, Unit 25
(Thanksgiving, November 28 & Black Friday, November 29)
- 🕒 **Regular Hours:** 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- 🕒 **Breakfast at Po-Ké Ono Azure:** 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- 🌐 **Visit us at www.pokeonoaruba.com for more information.**
- 📞 **Po-Ké Ono Marketplace WhatsApp:** +2975649803
- 📞 **Po-Ké Ono Azure WhatsApp:** +2975632766

Get ready for a November full of flavor and take advantage of these exclusive deals! 🍍



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

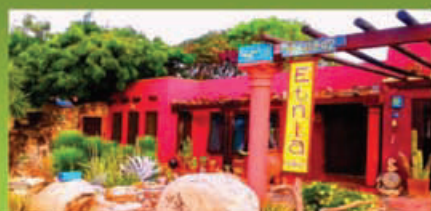
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Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



“Dori”, the native froggy

Episode CCLXXXI- 281

Etnia Nativa, Aruba's unique native experience opportunity, where education meets entertainment, your chance to tour a beautiful property made with reused materials collected by its concept developer, top columnist, vocational archaeologist, and the island's cultural expert. Book a mind-opening encounter and dive deep into the navel of the island.

During this weekly episode, Etnia Nativa introduces you to our native frog, locally known as “Dori”, which sounds like door-e and has been introduced as stow-aways in Curaçao and Bonaire, when sand from Aruba was imported for construction purposes. Aruban Dori is classified by the scientific nomenclature as *Pleurodema brachyops*. A variety of this amphibian are found in Brazil, Guyana, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and other South American countries, where they are known as “four-eyed frogs”.

Dori is a species of frog from the Leptodactylidae family. This species was first scientifically described by Edward Drinker Cope in 1869. Originally, the scientific name was *Lystris brachyops*.

The size of this tiny frog is 49 mm in males and 51 mm in females. Ephemeral or permanent pools of fresh water are necessary for reproduction, but Dori's can be found far from sources of a fresh water source. While warmth is important for this amphibian's survival, fresh water is absolutely crucial. Unfortunately for our Dori, Aruba has a very dry season. During which they hibernate in the ground holes they dig when everything starts to dry up after the rainy season and will emerge again if there is heavy rain. Different cultures around the world associate frogs with fertility due to the large number of eggs they lay, which is related to the abundance of males offered.

When it rains and raindrops hit the ground, it produces waves similar to those produced by drumsticks on the membrane of a drum. Sending a message into



the inner ear of these amphibians, in general, there is a kind of “seismic detector” that warns them of the impact of the precipitation on the ground. This low-frequency wave phenomenon, which is inaudible to humans, wakes up the sleeping Dori announcing the water feast that has started upstairs. Scientific studies have shown that the hearing of toads and frogs detects low-frequency vibrations transmitted by the ground, in particular, those caused by raindrops. This explains why they quickly hide when they detect our presence, as they detect our footsteps.

When threatened, Dori lowers its head and raises its rear end in this posture. The poison glands of it rise back towards the predator. The predator may also mistake the frog's raised rear end for the head of a larger animal. These poison glands are why it is known elsewhere as the “four-eyed frog.” Dori's do not have 4 eyes, but some have two poison glands on them that merely look like eyes. This confuses most animals, and so they usually end up leaving. If this doesn't work, Dori straightens out its back legs to reveal the vibrant orange coloration in an attempt to startle the predator. And if the hungry creature decides to take a bite out of the frog, it ends up with a mouthful of poison.

The throat of males is greenish-grey (white in females). The dorsal surface

is green or light brown, with yellow undertones. The dorsum often has large dark brown blotches. The upper surfaces of the thighs have some irregular yellow spots. The skin of the dorsum is smooth.

The ventral surface is white. The armpit, groin, and inner and rear surfaces of the thighs are bright orange. The backs of the thighs also have some black or gray spots.

A distinctive characteristic of Dori are its prominent glands, bluish, purple or black, present on either side of the body, just above the groin.

The Dori sings its mating song all night in celebration of the abundant approaching harvest on our happy island!

If you are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, booking a visit to Etnia Nativa—the only “living museum” in the Caribbean—would be a fantastic choice. Since 1994, Etnia Nativa, which means “native ethnicity”, has been a trend-setter, and co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, Aruba Today shares its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etniana03@gmail.com. □



Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba



The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of

Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba



The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

4 cups of wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
0.5 cup of melted butter
1 cup water
1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are

using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi



is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

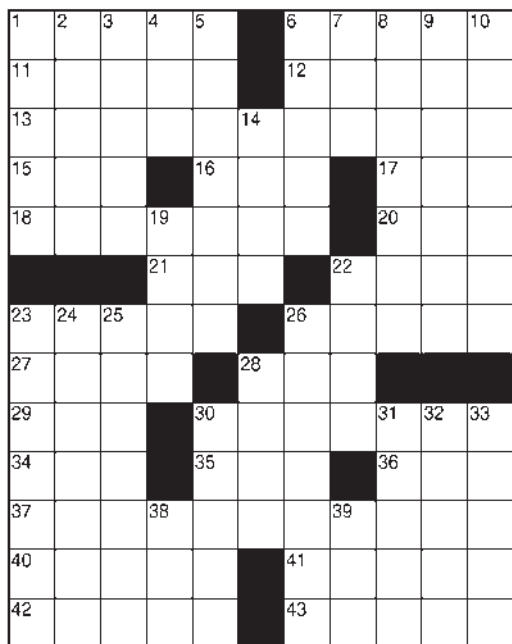
CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

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- 37 Breakfast appliances
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 - 32 Mountain group
 - 33 Moved slowly
 - 38 Merriment
 - 39 Deep groove



Yesterday's answer



11-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

X P K K D O H G G D G Y X H O Y X P Z
L R A Z X D O J Y X P Z L R A G P L
P O U Y X P Z L R A U R P E H D O
X P E T R O L — T P X P Z T P
W P O U X D

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU LEARN
SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY, YOU CAN
TEACH SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY.
— MARTHA STEWART

Cruise ship Schedule: November 22 - 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	22	OCEANIA INSIGNIA	07.00	13.00	C	1
SAT	23	ROYAL CLIPPER	10.00	18.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	24	JEWEL OF THE SEAS	07.00	17.00	C	1
		EURODAM	08.00	17.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	26	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		WIND STAR	06.00	15.00	G	1
		MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	27	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.00	22.00	I	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	07.00	16.00	B	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	30	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	C	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	B	1

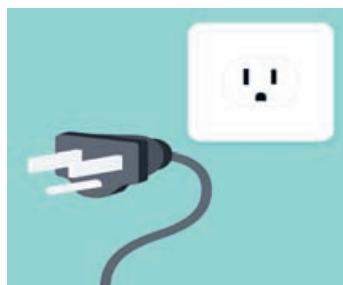
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Drinking water



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Best Buy posts another quarterly sales drop and warns shoppers will bear the brunt of new tariffs



A Best Buy logo is shown at a store in Dallas on Oct. 25, 2024.
(AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez, File)

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Best Buy, the nation's largest consumer electronics chain, reported a quarterly drop in sales as Americans continued to tighten their purse strings on appliances and gadgets to focus on essentials. The Richfield, Minnesota-based retailer lowered its annual sales and profit outlook, underscoring the challenges it faces as it heads into the traditional kickoff to the holiday shopping season. Best Buy's CEO Corie Barry also warned that shoppers will likely see higher prices on gadgets as they will have to shoulder the higher costs from new pledges by president-elect Donald Trump to impose sweeping tariffs on products from China

and Mexico. Shares were down nearly 8% in late morning trading. During a call with analysts following the earnings report on Tuesday, Barry said that the chain wrestled with economic uncertainty, shoppers' waiting for deals and the disruption during the run-up to the election, particularly in non-essential categories. The company has seen sales rebound, but Barry noted that the season will be very promotional. Best Buy kicked off Black Friday sales on Nov. 21, a week earlier than last year, and brought back a version of doorbusters limited-time-only deals on specific products. It started them Nov. 8 and it plans to make them available both online and in store every Friday through Dec. 20.

"We are managing well what we can control in what remains a volatile environment," Barry told analysts during the call. Best Buy, like other retailers, is also bracing for Trump's threat to impose sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs. □

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How to watch and stream the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The holiday season really kicks off when the massive helium balloons start floating through New York. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade two years away from its 100th birthday this year will feature 17 giant character balloons, 22 floats, 15 novelty and heritage inflatables, 11 marching bands, 700 clowns, 10 performance groups and more stars than can fit around a table.

The parade begins on Manhattan's Upper West Side and ends at Macy's Herald Square flagship store on 34th Street, which serves as a stage and backdrop for performances.

Here's key things to know about the parade and how to watch it.

What time does the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade start?

For the second year in a row, Thursday's parade starts at 8:30 a.m., in all time zones.

What channel is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on?

It will be on NBC, available with an antenna or through



Parade performers lead the Tom Turkey float down Central Park West at the start of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade on Nov. 23, 2023, in New York.

cable and satellite providers.

What if I want to stream it? For cord cutters, the parade is being simulcast on Peacock and an encore telecast begins at 2 p.m. EST/PST. A Spanish language simulcast will also be on Telemundo.

What's the weather going to be like?

It may be a wet day fore-

casts call for rain with temperatures in the upper-40s with clouds and winds around 10 mph. New York City law prohibits Macy's from flying the full-size balloons if sustained winds exceed 23 mph or wind gusts are over 35 mph.

Who are some of the stars performing?

This year is starrier than ever. Grammy-, Oscar-, Emmy-

(AP Photo/Jeenah Moon, File)

and Tony-winner Jennifer Hudson will perform, as will global pop icon and Grammy-winner Kylie Minogue and Tony-, Grammy-, and Emmy winner Billy Porter.

Anyone else? Reality TV's Ariana Madix, Broadway belter Idina Menzel, hip-hop's T-Pain, members of the WNBA champions New York Liberty and country duo Dan + Shay.

Other music performers include The War and Treaty, Lea Salonga, Loud Luxury, The Temptations, Chlöe, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots and Coco Jones. It will kick off with "Glow" actor Alison Brie cutting the ribbon.

Who is hosting the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade? For those watching on TV or computers, the trio of hosting stalwarts Savannah Guthrie, Hoda Kotb and Al Roker from "Today." But this year might be more emotional since it could be Kotb's last her last official day at "Today" will be Jan. 10.

What are the new balloons?

There will be six new featured character balloons, including Minnie Mouse, "Extraordinary Noorah" with The Elf on the Shelf, Gabby from "Gabby's Dollhouse," Goku from "Dragon Ball," Marshall from "Paw Patrol" and a new "Spider-Man." What about new floats?

New floats include ones from brands like Disney Cruise Line, Haribo, "Wednesday" from Netflix, Universal Orlando Resorts and "The Grannies Car" from BBC Studios' "Bluey." □

Drake alleges Universal falsely inflated popularity of Kendrick Lamar diss track 'Not Like Us'

By Andrew Dalton
Associated Press

(AP) - Drake alleged in a court filing Monday that Universal Music Group falsely pumped up the popularity on Spotify and other streaming services of Kendrick Lamar's "Not Like Us," a song that viciously attacked Drake amid a bitter feud between the two hip-hop superstars.

The petition in a New York court by the rapper's company Frozen Moments LLC demands the preservation and divulgence of information that might be evidence in a potential lawsuit against UMG, which is the distributor for the record labels of both Drake and Lamar. In allegations that UMG calls "offensive and untrue," the filing

says the record company "launched a campaign to manipulate and saturate the streaming services and airwaves with a song, 'Not

Like Us,' in order to make that song go viral, including by using 'bots' and pay-to-play agreements." It said the company and Spo-

tify "have a long-standing, symbiotic business relationship" and alleges that UMG offered special licensing rates to Spotify for the song. The petition also says UMG has fired employees seen as loyal to Drake "in an apparent effort to conceal its schemes."

Universal Music Group said in a statement in response that the "suggestion that UMG would do anything to undermine any of its artists is offensive and untrue. We employ the highest ethical practices in our marketing and promotional campaigns. No amount of contrived and absurd legal arguments in this pre-action submission can mask the fact that fans choose the music they want to hear."

"Not Like Us," the wildly

popular Lamar single released in May as part of a flurry of dueling tracks by the two artists, includes the lyrics, "Say, Drake, I hear you like 'em young, You better not ever go to cell block one." It has gotten more than 900 million plays, according to figures listed on Spotify.

Spotify representatives declined immediate comment, but in a statement on a previous case, the company said it "invests heavily in automated and manual reviews to prevent, detect, and mitigate the impact of artificial streaming on our platform," and in broader public statements has said it has gone to great lengths to mitigate the effects of bad actors on streaming numbers and royalties. □



Rapper Kendrick Lamar appears at the MTV Video Music Awards, on Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif., left, and Canadian rapper Drake appears at the premiere of the series "Euphoria," in Los Angeles on June 4, 2019.

(AP Photo, File)



Vancouver Whitecaps fire coach Vanni Sartini following elimination from MLS playoffs

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Coach Vanni Sartini was fired by the Vancouver Whitecaps on Monday, 2 1/2 weeks after the team's elimination in the MLS playoffs. Sartini became the 10th MLS coach to depart since the start of the 2024 season. He took over from Marc Dos Santos in August 2021 at first as an interim coach and then was given the job that November. Vancouver had 13 wins, 13 losses and eight draws in MLS this season, beat Portland 5-0 in the play-in round of the postseason and lost to Los Angeles FC in a three-game, first-round series that ended Nov. 8.

"The desperation on my side is absolutely there," CEO and sporting director Axel Schuster said.

"I had to make a professional decision (for) how we can get the biggest impact to make this step forward and to get



Vancouver Whitecaps head coach Vanni Sartini walks on the sideline during the second half of a first-round MLS Cup playoffs soccer match against Los Angeles FC, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

(Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press via AP)

to a progression."

The 47-year-old Sartini, who

is from Florence, Italy, had a MLS regular-season record

of 44 wins, 40 losses and 32 draws and had 57 wins, 51

losses and 39 draws in all competitions. He joined Vancouver as an assistant in 2019 and became coach of its under-23 team in September 2020.

He was suspended for the first six games of this season, fined \$20,000 and ordered to complete a league-approved behavioral assessment after criticizing referee Tim Ford following a season-ending 1-0 playoff loss to LAFC and making a joke about being a suspect if the official were to be found dead.

Vancouver has not won the MLS title since starting play in 2011. Its deepest postseason runs were to the quarterfinals 2015 and '17. The Whitecaps won their third straight Canadian championship, beating Toronto 4-2 on penalty kicks after a 0-0 tie.

"I took my time with this decision, and it was not taken lightly," Schuster said. □

Special teams bumbles dominate the NFL with Commanders, Cowboys leading the way in a chaotic Week 12

**By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press**

(AP) - Adventures on special teams made the Washington-Dallas showdown a clumsy affair, yet Joe Davis and Greg Olsen saw to it that the broadcast of the chaotic finish was pure gold.

After Terry McLaurin weaved his way past five defenders for an 86-yard touchdown catch from Jayden Daniels to cut the Cowboys lead to 27-26 with 21 seconds left, Fox's No. 2 broadcast crew captured the chaos before admonishing the audience not to count on anything as a certainty on this helter-skelter afternoon.

"Lightning strikes twice in Washington!" McLaurin

shouted in an homage to Daniels' 52-yard Hail Mary to Noah Brown that stunned the Bears last month.

"They dropped 11 guys in coverage," Olsen marveled. "If they just tackle him inbounds the game is over. I don't even know what to say. I'm absolutely speechless."

Not for long he wasn't.

Olsen quickly cautioned the audience that "Automatic" Austin Siebert had already missed an extra point along with a field goal Sunday in his return from a right hip injury.

"Before anyone in Washington gets too fired up, remember, we've seen a missed PAT already," Olsen said.

"Yeah, you hold your

breath with anything special teams-related on this day," Davis agreed.

After all, this was the first game in NFL history to feature two kickoff returns for touchdowns, two errant extra points and a blocked punt.

In the 41-point fourth quarter that erased the game's snoozer status, Washington allowed KaVontae Turpin's 99-yard kickoff return for a score. Earlier, the Cowboys missed a field goal and saw another one blocked along with a punt.

Sure enough, the snap was low ... the hold was better "It is no good!" Davis hollered. "And the worst special teams day in history has a fitting finish!"

Actually, no.

More ruckus remained.

Siebert's onside kick bounced twice in front of safety Juanyeh Thomas, who gathered it in and returned it 43 yards for Dallas'

second kickoff return for a touchdown.

If Thomas takes a knee short of the goal line, he effectively seals the Cowboys' win. □



Washington Commanders place kicker Austin Seibert (3) reacts after an unsuccessful point attempt during the second half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, in Landover, Md.

(AP Photo/Stephanie Scarbrough)



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Joel Dahmen's biggest win was keeping his PGA Tour card: Analysis

By **Dough Ferguson**
Associated Press

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP)

— Getting a PGA Tour card is difficult enough. Joel Dahmen can attest to that.

He was a natural talent whose life got turned upside down when his mother died of cancer his junior year of high school. His brother was diagnosed with testicular cancer, and then Dahmen was diagnosed with testicular cancer some 18 months later. One setback after another.

Rock bottom was spending two weeks on the couch with a dog he bought to keep him company, unable to pay his phone bill for two months until Lona now his wife gave him an ultimatum to practice or get a job. She also gave him \$200 to get a lesson.

The lesson wasn't anything he didn't already know, it was more symbolic of being dedicated. Three years later, Dahmen had his card.

"This is my eighth year out here," he said. "I probably made it longer than I ever thought."

And that's what can make keeping a PGA Tour card even more stressful. Dahmen knows that feeling, too. He was living it.

Dahmen was a 5-foot par putt away from missing the cut at Sea Island and mak-



Joel Dahmen drives from the 10th tee during the final final round of the RSM Classic golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

ing it virtually certain he would fall out of the top 125 in the FedEx Cup, losing a full PGA Tour card at a time when opportunities are about to shrink.

His voice choked with emotion talking about the putt that kept alive his hopes. The pressure he felt was never more evident.

"It's like you're sleeping on the lead of a major every night ... but a little more stressful than that," Dahmen said. So imagine the relief when Dahmen, projected outside the top 125 when he

teed off in the final round of the RSM Classic, holed out a sand wedge from 113 yards for eagle, rolled in birdie putts and then held on for three nervy pars and a 64 to lock up his job.

He came into the week at No. 124. He finished at No. 124. It was a lot more complicated, and far more stressful, than numbers on a points list. Dahmen long ago nearly lost his card. His first year on the PGA Tour in 2017, he had to face four weeks of Web.com Tour Finals, and his tie for sixth in the penultimate event was enough to get the 49th out of 50 cards offered that year.

But it was different then because he didn't really know what he was missing. And he didn't want to lose that. That's what made Sunday so special. He shared tears with Lona and beers with his buddies on tour.

"You take it for granted a little bit," he said. "It's been relatively easy, cruise between 50 and 90 on the FedEx Cup every year and enjoy it, and our best friends

(AP Photo/Gary McCullough)

are out here. We all have kids now and it is one of the coolest things. We get to go to like camp every week out here 25 weeks a year. We rent houses together, we stay together, our kids are playing together, they're all the same age. I didn't want to miss out on that.

"As much as playing golf for a living is really cool and making a bunch of money is really cool, this has been our life," he said. "So I thought a lot about not being able to do that as much, and that would stink."

Dahmen has endeared himself to the golf world for being more everyman than journeyman, and he has become a popular figure on the Netflix "Full Swing" docu-series. But the struggle was real this year, never more so than the final two days.

He took a double bogey on his 16th hole Saturday, wasting a solid round and leaving him outside the top 125. He described the mood that night as somber, "funeral effect." Driving to get his son Riggs, who turns 2 in January, Dahmen wondered if

he'd still be getting him from tour daycare next year.

But he showed something to himself, perhaps even more than when he won his only PGA Tour title in the Dominican Republic in 2021. In his two biggest rounds of the year Friday on a cold, vicious wind to make the cut and Sunday to keep his card he delivered.

He kept preaching on Friday when he made that 5-footer that the job was not finished. He had two more days to stay in the top 125. It's a good reminder going forward. Because while his 64 on Sunday was money in so many ways, now the hard part begins. The big changes to the PGA Tour next year mean only the top 100 keep a full card, down from the top 125. The field sizes will be smaller.

Getting to the PGA Tour is still hard. Staying there figures to be harder than ever.

"Do I get a year at 125 or do I go to 100 next year? It goes to 100 next year? Are we confirmed on that?" Dahmen said. "I thought I had another year of freedom."

He was joking. Vintage Dahmen. But his thoughts soon turned to next season seven weeks away at the Sony Open. Celebrate this now. He earned it.

And then try to make more putts because he'll need them to avoid missing out on the beer with Mark Hubbard, the congratulations from J.T. Poston waiting behind the last green, on that drive to get Riggs from daycare, on a PGA Tour that feels very much like a village he doesn't want to leave.

"Two of the biggest pressure moments of my career I show up, and I can take that going forward," he said. "Might as well start at Sony." Bon biní na edat mediano. Tur e kuminda ku bo a yega di stima awor ta purba mata bo. □



Joel Dahmen watches his drive from the 10th tee during the final final round of the RSM Classic golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

(AP Photo/Gary McCullough)